TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 8 totaled an estimated 17.3 billion ton-miles, 2.1 percent below the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 10 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 169.0 billion ton-miles, up 2.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 8 totaled 380,153, down 1.4 percent from last year, and 1.2 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 5.4 percent in the West, but down 7.2 percent in the East, and 5.7 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 13 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, lumber and wood products showed a gain of 1,137 cars (16.9 percent). Coal loadings were down by 4,237 cars (3.7 percent). Twelve of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 1 totaled 99,996 trailers and/or containers, 8.9 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first nine weeks of the year was 827,285 trailers and/or containers, up 13.0 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/8/86:

	Loadings in Week ended March 8, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,690	D	556	2.5	I	390	1.8
Other farm products	3,281	D	85	2.5	I	351	12.0
Metallic ores	12,600	I	149	1.2	D	660	5.0
Coal	111,769	D	4,237	3.7	I	1,193	1.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,643	I	840	7.8	I	787	7.2
Nonmetallic minerals	8,982	D	2,540	22.0	D	1,755	16.3
Grain mill products	10,811	I	37	0.3	I	149	1.4
Food and kindred products	10,647	D	681	6.0	D	492	4.4
Primary forest products	11,293	D	1,620	15.5	D	169	1.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,863	I	1,137	16.9	D	643	7.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,537	D	1,367	9.2	D	689	4.8
Chemicals and allied products	25,214	D	552	2.1	D	1,615	6.0
Petroleum products	4,684	I	236	5.3	I	159	3.5
Stone, clay and glass products	10,102	D	418	4.0	I	601	6.3
Coke	4,837	I	194	4.2	D	18	0.4
Metals and products	8,525	D	482	5.4	D	1,211	12.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,150	I	905	4.1	D	297	1.3
Waste and scrap materials	8,644	D	1,445	14.3	D	410	4.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,654	D	1,243	18.0	D	168	2.9
All other carloads	65,094	I	6,268	10.7	I	58	0.1
LCL traffic	133	D	42	24.0	I	11	9.0
Total Cars Loaded	380,153	D	5,502	1.4	D	4,428	1.2
Corresponding week of 1985	385,655						

	1986	1985	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (10 weeks)	3,658,257	3,565,317	I	2.6

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
9 Weeks ended March 1	151.7	147.7	I	2.7
Week ended March 8	17.3	17.7	D	2.1
10 weeks cumulative	169.0	165.4	I	2.2

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